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Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 NSCE-00

SSO-00 IO-03 /029 W
---------- 066785
O R 060050Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 1923
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OVP, CY, PINS
SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING CONGRESSMAN BEARD (D., RHODE ISLAND)

1. OVER PAST FEW HOURS CONGRESSMAN EDWARD P. BEARD (D., RHODE ISLAND) HAS BECOME CENTER OF MAJOR PUBLIC FLAP OVER ALLEGED INCIDENT AT LEDRA PALACE CHECKPOINT ON AFTERNOON JULY 5. BASED ON CONGRESSMAN'S REMARKS TO EMBOFF AND LOCAL PRESS REPS, HE AND UNNAMED GREEK-AMERICAN COMPANION TRIED TO CROSS INTO TURKISH PART OF NICOSIA AROUND MID-AFTERNOON JULY 5. REPORTEDLY, TURKISH GUARD AT CHECKPOINT REFUSED TO LET THEM PASS, AFTER CHECKING THEIR PAPERS AND CONTACTING HIGHER AUTHORITY. CONGRESSMAN CLAIMS THAT GUARD POINTED RIFLE AT HIM. CLAIMING TO BE SHAKEN DEEPLY BY THIS EX PERIENCE, CONGRESSMAN TOLD EMBOFF HE HAS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED GOC ESECURITY ESCORT. HE ASKED THAT EMBASSY ARRANGE SIMILAR SECURITY IN U.S. AGAINST POSSIBLE TURKISH REPRISAL WHEN HE RETURNS.

2. ON RETURNING TO HILTON HOTEL FROM CHECKPOINT, CONGRESSMAN SAYS HE GAVE HIS STORY TO NEW YORK TIMES, AFP. HE HAS JUST FINISHED PRIVATE
INTERVIEWS WITH AP, UPI STRINGERS. EARLIER IN EVENING, HE APPEARED ON CBC TV FOR EMOTIONAL, LEMBLING INTERVIEW
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IN WHICH HE CLAIMED, IN RESPONSE TO LEADING QUESTIONS,

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THAT (1) HE WILL USE THIS INCIDENT TO OPPOSE BILL TO RESUME ARMS FLOW TO TURKEY; (2) TURKS HAD DELIBERATELY BOMBED MELKONIAN INSTITUTE (ARMEMIAN EDUCATIONAL BUILDING IN NICOSIA) DURING LAST SUMMER'S FIGHTING. HIS STYLE OF DELIVERY WAS HIGHLY CHARGED, CONGRESSMAN WAS ESCORTED BY ABOVE-MENTIONED COMPANION AND TWO MEMBERS OF GOC FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO APPEAR TO BE ARRANGING HIS SCHEDULE. THEY TOLD HIM, IN PRESENCE EMBOFF, THAT HE WILL SEE ARCHBISHOP AT 0655Z THIS MORNING (JULY 6).

3. EMBOFFS WILL MEET WITH CONGRESSMAN AT 0600Z IN HIS HOTEL. CONGRESSMAN ARRIVED ON CYPRUS JULY 5 AND ORIGINALLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE PLANNED DEPART AFTERNOON JULY 6. DURING HIS AP INTERVIEW HOWEVER, HE IMPLIED HE MIGHT EXTEND HIS STAY ON ISLAND.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF CONGRESSMAN'S TRIP. WE UNDER-STAND FROM EMBASSY ATHENS (TELECON) THAT HE IS TRAVELING INDEPENDENTLY, AND THAT HE ATTACHED HIMSELF TO ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS'S PARTY DURING JULY 4 RECEPTION IN ATHENS. MANY FACTS ON THIS NICOSIA "INCIDENT" ARE STILL MURKY. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER ASAP. END COMMENT.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BORDER INCIDENTS, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NICOSI02124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0266
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacvbs.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT INVOLVING CONGRESSMAN BEARD (D., RHODE ISLAND)
TAGS: OREP, PINS, CY, (BEARD, EDWARD P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006